

At the meeting of Carbondale City Council that took place in Council Chambers tonight at 7:30 o'clock, S. Robert Powell stated, during the public section of the meeting, the following:

"My name is Robert Powell. My address is 8 Hendrick Lane. We have heard the report of the city's Finance Director which indicates that the city is approximately \$500,000 in debt. We have heard the call for volunteers that has been made by Mayor Moro. I stand before you tonight to tell you that there is an organization in town that has come forward and donated \$17,200 to the city of Carbondale. That organization is the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, and the \$17,200 that I speak of is being spent by the Historical Society to stabilize Carbondale City Hall and Courthouse—this very building where we are met tonight. We will, in the course of the next several months, spend about \$11,000 to repair and replace the shingle roof on the south side of the two- and three-story wings. We will spend several thousand dollars to make emergency masonry repairs to the brick work on the tower and on the gable above the entrance to the police station. In addition we will have all of the windows on the second and third stories re-glazed and re-hung and repainted. In addition, we will have made new arched windows for the top of the windows on the second floor. We are doing all this because we are very proud of the city of Carbondale and of this building. We are doing all this because we are interested in Carbondale's past, Carbondale's present, and Carbondale's future. I have come before you tonight to tell you, then, that the Carbondale Historical Society is doing its share on behalf of Carbondale, and to tell you that we are doing so voluntarily, because we believe in Carbondale. Thank you."

An enthusiastic round of applause was awarded SRP following his remarks. Mike Tolerico stated: "And a well deserved round of applause that was too." Council Chambers were packed—SRP, in fact—and it was a grand moment for SRP, personally, and for the Historical Society, as an organization.

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★★★★

Tolerico Renamed Council President

Peg Carbondale's Debt at \$418,253

By RAY RINALDI
Councilman Michael Tolerico was re-elected president of Carbondale City Council at Monday's reorganization meeting. The vote was 6-1, with councilman Frank Grecco Jr. voting no. Albert Calzola was elected vice president.

Before a packed council chambers which included Mayor Charlotte Moro and Finance Director John Kearney, Council introduced a resolution that no funds will be expended from city accounts with the exception of salaries.

The resolution will prohibit any expenditures by the city, except for salaries, until such time as the 1984 budget is finalized. Salaries will be based on the 1983 rates until passage of the new budget, after which salaries will be adjusted to reflect the 1984 figures.

Mrs. Moro, serving in the capacity as managing director, informed council that

contrary to what they have been told by the previous administration, the city could have collected rent from the Community Development Office at \$150 a month.

"On another matter," said Mrs. Moro, "I have met with CommD auditors and they have informed me that, despite what our previous city manager Joseph Masco told us, James Spall (a former CommD employee), was definitely a city employee paid from city funds, and those funds were not reimbursed by HUD as Mr. Masco told us they were."

Mrs. Moro also said she is meeting with Sen. Robert Mellow Wednesday, and with liquid fuels auditors Thursday, and council is welcome to the meetings.

Kearney, sitting in on his first meeting after a week on the job, stated that as of Monday the city's debt totaled \$418,253.76, not including what is owed police and firemen's pension funds,

and state and unemployment taxes.

"Before we're finished finding the bills," said Mrs. Moro, "that figure will exceed \$500,000."

S. Robert Powell, president of the Carbondale Historical Society, received a resounding round of applause after informing council that the society, with no expense to the city, was spending \$17,200 to renovate the city hall building.

"Of that amount," said Powell, "\$11,000 is being spent to repair the roof on the south side of the two-story wing. Approximately \$34,000 will be spent in repairs on the clock tower; also, the gables on the roof directly over the police station. We should all thank God that someone has not been injured or killed from falling bricks."

An ordinance was introduced by Councilman Grecco amending the administrative code authorizing the mayor to appoint an attorney to represent the zoning board. The appointment would be for one year.

Council awarded the contract for auditing the city's accounts to the firm of Parente, Randolph, Orlando, Carey and Associates, Scranton. On advice of City Solicitor John Cerra, the Parente firm was awarded the contract despite its bid being several hundred dollars higher than McGrail and Co., also of Scranton and the only other bidder.

Cerra explained that the Parente firm had performed last year's audit and had gained a working knowledge of the city's bookkeeping system, presenting a comprehensive audit. On the other hand, Cerra noted, it would take the McGrail Co. a year to familiarize itself with the city's accounts, and despite the lower bid, the eventual cost may wind up the same or more than the Parente firm's. Council concurred and awarded the con-

tract to Parente.

In other business:

— Councilman Albert Calzola asked input from the public on whether parking meters in the city should be eliminated in favor of a system such as the one in Scranton, which allows one to two free hours parking before cars are ticketed.

The fine in Scranton for drivers exceeding the two hours free parking is \$10.

"I don't think we should go that high," said Calzola. "Maybe \$3. But I believe it would benefit everyone in town, especially the merchants. I'd like to hear from the public on this. What do they think of it?"

— Robert McDonough, president of the Belmont Neighborhood Association,

asked council to consider alternate parking on Belmont Street. Council, however, citing problems with the alternate parking and "snow emergency" systems, preferred instead to enforce the laws currently on the books and increase the fine for illegally parked cars.

— Responding to a complaint from Ruth Marmelstein, a resident of North Church Street, who asked council to enforce the laws on store owners and residents who fail to clean their sidewalks following a snowstorm, council president Tolerico asked the news media to inform residents the city will begin enforcing the ordinance on cleaning the walks.

Post office — mailed about 10 letters; for my afternoon in town & put on my business suit — very formal. On the way in I stopped to see Mrs. McKerny at the Little Waikeel gift shop — she did not have the photograph album at the shop; could I call her in the morning some time and then stop in later in the day. Very annoying. Went to the News and picked up a copy of the 9/21/83 issue of Elwood Roeder.

Post office. Men down to City Hall. Ran into Jim Sepburn on Main Street and he invited me to the LNA meeting tomorrow night, rather, Wednesday evening at Andrews Banquet Hall.

Went to City Hall and sat in 301 and ate an entire bag of Doritos (Nachos cheese) — \$1.39. JOB + the crew arrived at about 5:15 PM. JOB was wearing an ace bandage around his chest — he is still a little under the weather from his liver/lung injury. He seemed that I was in a strange mood, and

[all members of council applauded SRP as well, Tolerico and Mr. Nuyne included. I couldn't believe my eyes.]